

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 165564
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 VO-03 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SCA-01 COME-00 DODE-00
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-----083473 160611Z /10

R 152037Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165564

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI VISA POLICY

REF: 76 JIDDA 8359

1. IN DISCUSSION OF VISA POLICY IN JULY 13 MEETING WITH
ASST SEC ATHERTON, SAUDI AMBASSADOR ALIREZA SAID CURRENT
SAG INSTRUCTIONS ARE THAT EMBASSIES MUST REQUIRE ALL
APPLICANTS FOR SAUDI VISAS TO COMPLETE THE RELIGION BOX
ON APPLICATION FORM. ALIREZA SAID THIS INSTRUCTION HAD
BEEN RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO MANSOURI'S SUGGESTION TO
EMBASSY JIDDA (REFTEL) THAT APPLICANTS SIMPLY LEAVE RELIGION
BOX BLANK. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE
FOR APPLICANTS TO INDICATE IN THE RELIGION BOX THAT THEY
ARE JEWISH AND THAT VISAS WOULD NOT BE REFUSED ON THE
BASIS OF RELIGION. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT THE SAUDI GOVERN-
MENT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO REFUSE VISAS TO QUOTE ZIONISTS
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OR SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL UNQUOTE.

2. ALIREZA ALSO SAID THAT BY DECISION OF THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS EMBASSIES ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REFUSE VISAS
TO PERSONS WHO ARE SIKHS, QADIANIS, AND PERSONS WITH NO
RELIGION.

3. ABOVE DISCUSSION WITH ALIREZA AROSE OUT OF SAUDI
EMBASSY REJECTION OF VISA APPLICATION BY USAF SERGEANT
ASSIGNED TO DUTY WITH USMTM WHO FILLED IN
RELIGION BOX WITH "NO PREFERENCE." EMBASSY'S CONTENTION
IS THAT SOME RELIGION MUST BE SHOWN IF APPLICANT IS NOT
TO BE CONSIDERED A PERSON WITH NO RELIGION. THIS CASE
IS STILL UNDER REVIEW. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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